

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3919
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 15602

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA SUPPORTS PDRY

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS HAS
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MAINTAINED INCREASINGLY RAPID DRUMBEAT OF REPORTING
FROM PDRY AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES ON RECENT EVENTS
IN TWO YEMENS AND ON JUST CONCLUDED CAIRO ARAB
LEAGUE SESSION. BASIC THEMES OF NUMEROUS SHORT
ARTICLES ARE THAT:

-- ARAB LEAGUE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS

AGAINST PDRY ARE RESULT OF PRESSURE BY IMPERIALISTS
(READ U.S.) AND ARAB REACTIONARIES (READ SAUDI ARABIA)
TO MAINTAIN SOURCE OF TENSION IN SOUTHERN PART OF
ARABIAN PENINSULA, TO DEEPEN THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE
TWO YEMENS AND TO PROVOKE CONFLICT BETWEEN THEM;

-- IF INTER-YEMENI CONFLICT WERE TO INVOLVE THIRD
COUNTRIES, FOR EXAMPLE SAUDI ARABIA, THEN PDRY
WOULD BE FORCED TO TURN TO "FRIENDLY STATES" FOR
ASSISTANCE (PER BEIRUT PRESS CONFERENCE BY PDRY
MINISTER MAHMUD 'ABDULLAH 'USHAYSH, ,RAVDA JULY 5).
IN SAME VEIN, JULY 4 PRAVDA NOTES SDRY MIN.DEF.
ALI ANTAR STATEMENT DN RADIO YEMEN TO EFFECT
THAT, IF PDRY IS FORCED TO FIGHT, IT "WILL NOT FIGHT
ALONE," BUT CAN COUNT ON HELP FROM ITS ALLIES -
WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND ITS BORDERS;
-- PDRY LEADERS WANT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH YAR
AND ARE READY TO CONDUCT TALKS DIRECTED TOWARD
REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. (END
UNCLASSIFIED)

2. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA COMMENTARY, AS IS
TYPICAL IN SUCH FAST MOVING AND COMPLEX SITUATIONS,
HAS BEEN LARGELY RESTRICTED TO REPORTING PRO-PDRY
STATEMENTS AND COMMENTARY BY PDRY LEADERS AND
SYMPATHETIC ARAB PRESS. YURIY ZHUKOV'S JUNE 29
PRAVDA "RETORT" TO KUWAITI PRESS CHARGE THAT 500
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FOREIGN SOLDIERS WERE TRANSFERRED FROM ETHIOPIA
TO PDRY ZS ONLY DIRECT SOVIET MEDIA
COMMENT WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE. DESPITE ITS
INDIRECT NATURE, HOWEVER, SOVIET POLITICAL LINE
OF SUPPORT FOR CURRENT PDRY LEADERSHIP'S INTER-
PRETATION OF THESE EVENTS IS QUITE CLEAR.
ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT (IN THAT GENERAL CONTEXT)
IS SOVIET DECISION TO REPORT IN THEIR PRESS
PDRY LEADERS' COMMENTS ABOUT TURNING TO NON-ARAB,
THIRD COUNTRIES (I.E., TO SOVIET
UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATES) FOR MILITARY
ASSISTANCE SHOULD INTER-YEMENI CONFLICT WIDEN.
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OVERALL COVERAGE THIS SIGNALS,
IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, THAT THE SOVIETS WISH TO WARN
OTHERS THAT THEY HAVE NOT EXCLUDED THE POSSIBILITY
OF A POSITIVE SOVIET RESPONSE TO SUCH A PDRY REQUEST.
TOON

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NNN

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